Message Text

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R 281101Z APR 77 FM USMISSION NATO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3230 INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 2474

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MILI, XF, XG, XI, MT SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 27: CONSIDERATION OF MEDITERRANEAN REPORT

FOR EUR/RPM

REF: (A) STATE 094065 (NOTAL),(B) USNATO 2280 (NOTAL)

1. UPSHOT OF LENGTHY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF SPRING MEDITERRANEAN REPORT APRIL 27 WAS SYG LUNS' DECISION TO RECONVENE THE REPORT'S DRAFTING GROUP IN ORDER TO ADJUST SEVERAL SENTENCES ABOUT WHICH THERE WERE RESERVATIONS. HARDY (CANADA) TRIGGERED THIS DECISION BY FORMALLY REQUESTING THAT PARA 13 MENTIONING IRAQ'S "CAUTIOUS OPENING TOWARDS THE WEST" BE MODIFIED. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTY IF DRAFTING GROUP RECONVENES AND PLAN TO ACCEPT ANY SENSIBLE MINOR MODIFICATIONS MEETING WITH GENERAL APPROVAL.

2. CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION OF TIME DEVOTED TO REVIEW OF THE REPORT FOCUSED ON THE EVOLVING ROLE OF LIBYA AND CONFIDENTIAL

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QUADHAFI'S RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND CUBA. CHARGE DREW ON REF A, AND PERMREPS EXPRESSED A VARIETY OF CONCERNS ABOUT LIBYA'S FUTURE POLICY.

3. REGARDING MALTA, CATALANO (ITALY) REFERRING TO THE DISCUSSION ON MALTA AT APRIL 26 PERMREPS LUNCH (USNATO 2434-NOTAL), NOTED THE ISLAND'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AND CALLED ON THE COUNCIL TO FOLLOW ITS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WITH THE GREATEST ATTENTION. THIS SENTIMENT WAS SECONDED BY LAGACOS (GREECE). SYG LUNS OBSERVED THAT

DURING THE COMING YEAR NATO MIGHT LOOK AT THE SITUATION IN MALTA.

4. SEVERAL PERMREPS NOTED THE NEED TO WATCH CAREFULLY MOSCOW'S ATTEMPTS TO SECURE BASES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF ALEXANDRIA. LAGACOS CALLED FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF THE KIEV.

5.NOTING THE LENGTH OF THE DISCUSSION AND THE PLETHORA OF COMMENTS BY PERMREPS, LUNS SUGGESTED THAT, IN FUTURE, PERMREPS REVIEW THE REPORT EARLIER, WHILE IT IS STILL IN THE DRAFTING STAGE. STREATOR

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TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MILI, XF, XG, XI, MT To: STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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